

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. Certification processing hardware connected to a terminal device capable of
2 communicating with a server device via a network and executing user certification processing of a
3 user of the terminal device by communicating with the server device, the certification processing
4 hardware comprising:

5 a storing unit which stores certification information of the user;

6 an encryption key receiving unit which requests a certification process from the server
7 device and receives an encryption key assigned to the certification process hardware from the
8 server device;

9 an encryption processing unit which encrypts the certification information by using the
10 received encryption key;

11 a certification information transmitting unit which transmits the encrypted certification
12 information to the server device;

13 a certification result information receiving unit which receives encrypted certification result
14 information from the server device;

15 a decryption processing unit which decrypts the encrypted certification result information
16 by using the encryption key; and

17 an execution permitting unit which gives an execution permission for a process comprising
18 communication from the server device to the terminal device when a decryption of the certification
19 result information by the decryption processing unit succeeds.

1 2. The certification processing hardware according to claim 1, wherein the decryption

1 6. A method for performing user certification processing for a user of a terminal device
2 communicating with a server device via a network, the method comprising the steps of:
3 connecting certification processing hardware to the terminal device;
4 storing certification information of the user in the certification processing hardware;
5 requesting a certification process from the server device;
6 receiving, from the server device, an encryption key assigned to the certification processing
7 hardware;
8 encrypting the certification information by using the received encryption key;
9 transmitting the encrypted certification information to the server device;
10 receiving encrypted certification result information from the server device;
11 decrypting the encrypted certification result information by using the encryption key; and
12 giving an execution permission of a process comprising communication from the server
13 device to the terminal device after the decrypting step.

1 7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the decrypting step is executed by using one
2 encryption key only once.

1 8. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of controlling the terminal
2 device based on the decrypted certification result information.

1 9. A method for performing user certification processing for a user of a terminal device
2 communicating with a server device via a network, the method comprising the steps of:
3 connecting certification processing hardware to the terminal device;

4 storing certification information of the user in the certification processing hardware;
5 sending a certification request from the certification processing hardware to the server
6 device;
7 transmitting from the server device an encryption key assigned to the certification
8 processing hardware in response to the certification request; and
9 encrypting the certification information by utilizing the received encryption key;
10 transmitting the encrypted certification information to the server device;
11 receiving encrypted certification information from the certification processing hardware;
12 decrypting the encrypted certification information;
13 encrypting certification result information;
14 transmitting the encrypted certification result information to the certification processing
15 hardware;
16 receiving the encrypted certification result information from the server device;
17 decrypting the encrypted certification result information by using the encryption key; and
18 giving execution permission of a process comprising communication from the server device
19 to the terminal device after the decrypting the encrypted certification result information step; and
20 executing the process after receiving the execution permission from the hardware.

1 10. A method for performing use management of a terminal device, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 storing availability information indicating the availability of the terminal device;
4 receiving an operation request from the terminal device;
5 determining the availability of the terminal device based on the availability information;

6 and

7 enabling the terminal device to operate when the determining step determines that the

8 terminal device is available.